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09/991,752	11/26/2001	Michael J. Borg	10007023-1	3959

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EXAMINER
LIN, WEN TAI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2154	

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *2/27/06*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

2.   The text of those sections of Title 35, USC code not included in this action can be found in the prior Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta et al. (hereafter "Gupta079")[U.S. Pat. No. 6199079] in view of Gupta et al. (hereafter "Gupta258") [U.S. Pat. No. 5826258].

4.   Note that Gupta258 was incorporated into Gupta079 by referencing [see e.g., col.1, lines 31-45]. Both Gupta258 and Gupta079 were cited in the previous office action.

5.   As to claims 1 and 11, Gupta079 teaches the invention substantially as claimed including: an automated data entry method comprising:

        entering a user information at a first location [e.g., 312-316, Fig.3A; see also col.6, lines 11-54 and col.7, lines 15-30];

searching a storage medium at said first location to determine an identity of a

user based on the entered information [e.g., 170, 180, Fig.1C ; 90, Fig. 1D; col.8, lines

56-67; see also col.7, lines 34-63 and Figs 2A and 2B]; and

retrieving additional information pertaining to the user from the storage medium

at the first or second locations based on the determined identity [col.2, lines 15-30 and

15-20 and 50-59; note that a user identity such as his/her last name and first name is

retrieved from the user meta database [col.8, lines 15-20], along with additional

information such as address and telephone number etc. in view of the required

information for shipping a product (see Fig.2a) or establishing a transaction (see

Fig.2b)].

Gupta079 does not specifically teach accessing a storage medium at a second

location upon not being able to identify a user by searching the storage medium at said

first location, said medium at the second location containing information for a plurality of

users.

However, Gupta258 teaches a method of coupling a plurality of wrappers and a

mapper to a standard relational database so as to extract information from additional

resources that are connected to the wrappers [Gupta258: Abstract; Fig.11 and col.9,

lines 5-23]. It is noted that (1) Gupta079's Transaction Integrator already couples to the

plurality of wrappers [Gupta079: 100, Fig.1C] and (2), by default, each vendor [i.e., 139,

149, 159, Fig.1C] keeps records of customers who made purchases through each

respective website. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to incorporate Gupta258's mapper software into

Gupta079's Transaction Integrator because such modification would enable Gupta079's

form filler to extract customer information directly from the resource vendor's local site

when the customer's data has not yet been collected into Gupta079's databases,

thereby allowing all existing customers to make single-point check out instead of

multiple points and saving time and money for everyone concerned [col.9, lines 39-42;

col.2, lines 15-30].

6.   As to claim 2, Gupta teaches that the method further comprising: establishing

communication from the first location to the second location by a programmable

software application at the first location [e.g., col.3, line 65 – col.4, line 14].

7.   As to claim 3, Gupta further teaches that said software application is a browser

plug-in module [col.4, line 1-2; col.6, lines 11-27; wherein Java can be implemented as

a browser plug-in module].

8.   As to claims 4-7, Gupta further teaches that the first and second locations are

connected to a network, such as the Internet [col.4, lines 19-29], wherein the first and

second locations are websites, each associated with a vender [Fig.1C].

9.   As to claims 8-9, Gupta further teaches that the retrieved additional information

is presented to the user for verifying accuracy of said information [e.g., 344-348, Fig.

3C; Figs. 2A-2D; col.8, lines 8-12; note that by default a user would check the correctness of the automatically filled information before he/she confirms it].

10.   As to claim 10, Gupta further teaches that the user selects portions of the additional information for transmission [322-328, Fig.3B; i.e., the user may choose only a portion of presented products (which is additional information in response to the user's initially entered item) are selected for purchase].

11.   As to claims 12-18, since the features of these claims can also be found in claims 1-11, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-11 above.

12.   As to claim 19, Gupta further teaches that a user selection is displayed to the user [324, Fig.3B].

13.   As to claim 20, Gupta further teaches that the user is prompted to enter information for shipping and billing purposes [e.g., 203, Fig.2B].

14.   Applicant's arguments filed on 2/27/06 for claims 1-20 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

15.   Applicant argues in the remarks that neither Gupta079, nor Gupta258 or Nilsen

provide teachings for: (1) determining an identity of a user; (2) searching a first location

and, if necessary, searching a second location to determine an identity of a user; and

(3) retrieving additional user information from first or second locations based on the

determined identity [based on Table 1 listed on page 12 of Applicant's remarks].

16.   The examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant's remarks:

        As an overview: Gupta079 develops automated order form filling system based

on Gupta258's virtual database management system [col.2, lines 15-23 and 50-59],

wherein multiple vendors' data (e.g., categorized products) can be seamlessly searched

and checked-out at a single point [col. 7, lines 34-41]. To automatically fill in the forms

that are normally required for making conventional product shipments [see Fig.2A] and

transactions [see Fig.2B], Gupta079 further teaches establishment of two databases:

User Meta-data and User Selection [170, 180, Fig.1C]. Thus, based upon a user's

product selection, the system searches the User Selection database to obtain vendor

associated forms for filling in relevant user information by searching the User Meta-data

database [e.g., col.8, lines 15-20]. It is further noted that Gupta079's virtual check-out

counter is based on Gupta258's capability of querying seamlessly between a local

database [e.g., 562, Fig.11 of Gupta258] and remote vendor sources [e.g., 552, Fig.11

of Gupta258] via a dynamic agent [560, Fig.11 of Gupta258], in particular when the local

database could not satisfy a query [Gupta258: col.9, lines 5-12]. Thus, from an

application's point of view, the search in Gupta258's virtual database starts out from its

local database, followed by searching in remote sources. Furthermore, based on the

fact that Gupta258's local database [562, Fig.11] may be gradually built up from all

previous search results obtained from the remote sources [Gupta258: col.8, line 66 –

col.9, line 4], it is obvious that the same applied to the establishment of Gupta079's

User Meta-data and User Selection databases. That is, by simply including Gupta258's

transaction records (of each associated vendor) in the aforementioned virtual database,

Gupta079's system is provided the capability of querying user identification information

from both the local User Meta-data and any vendor's existing transaction records.

(i) As to points 1 and 3: see, for instance, col.8, lines 15-20, wherein the user

identification refers to, e.g., a user's name and the additional information refers to, e.g.,

credit card number and address, which is important information to carry out a

transaction payment and product shipment [see also Figs. 2A and 2B].

(ii) As to point 2: see the overview above. Also, of particular importance is that

Gupta079's local databases [170 and 180, Fig.1C] are built up through available

transactions that have already taken place. For user information that does not exist

locally (i.e., a transaction record has not been previously established), Gupta258's

virtual database makes it possible to acquire from each associated vendor source

[col.2, lines 50-59].

For at least the above reasons, it is submitted that the prior art of record reads on the

claims.

17.   THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

18.   A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

Examiner note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the

references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are

applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures

may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing

responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part

of the claimed invention, as well as the contest of the passage as taught by the prior art
or disclosed by the Examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Wen-Tai Lin whose telephone number is (571)272-3969.
The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday(8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571)272-3964. The fax phone
numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as
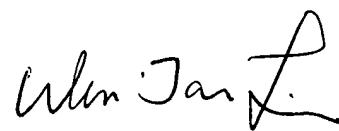follows:

(571)273-8300 for official communications; and

(571)273-3969 for status inquires draft communication.

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.
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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic
Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Wen-Tai Lin

April 24, 2006